

Remarks

In the April 30, 2007 Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 12 and 13 contained allowable subject matter. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration and examination given to the Application. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejections have been overcome.

By this Response, Applicant submits an RCE. After entry of this Response, Claims 1-13 are pending in the Application. Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance.

RCE

Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Pelz et al.* (US6357772).

Claim 1 is an independent claim for a wheel suspension system for a motor vehicle. The system comprises a lower link for the attachment of a wheel and a spring having a lower end and an upper end. The spring lower end is arranged on the link and the spring upper end is arranged in a spring plate. The chassis underframe also comprises at least one pair of bearings for fastening to a body. The system further comprises a chassis underframe having a mounting for supporting part of the spring plate when the wheel suspension system is not fitted on the body of a motor vehicle. When the suspension is fitted to the body of the vehicle, the chassis underframe mounting support is removed from the spring plate to allow the spring plate to directly engage the body of the vehicle.

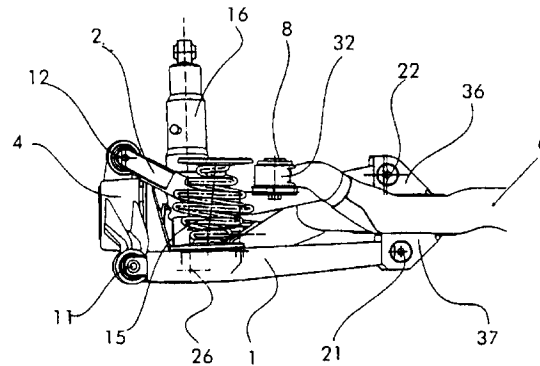


Fig. 2

Pelz Fig. 2

The Examiner states that *Pelz* discloses a wheel suspension system comprising a lower link (1); a spring (15) having a lower end and an upper end, the lower end of which is arranged on the link and the upper end of which is arranged in a spring plate; and a chassis underframe (6) having at a mounting (36, 37) and having at least one pair of bearings (7,8); wherein the spring plate bypasses the chassis underframe and directly engages the body of the vehicle; wherein the lower link is designed as a transverse link.

Contrary to the examiner's statement, *Pelz* does not anticipate claim 1. In contrast, *Pelz* fails to disclose a chassis underframe having a mounting for supporting part of the spring plate when the wheel suspension system is not fitted on the body of a motor vehicle. The *Pelz* underframe (6) fails to extend or contact the spring plate located on top of spring (15) in Fig 2. More specifically, *Pelz* fails to teach how to incorporate a spring plate to hold the spring (15) yet directly engages the body when the suspension is fitted on the body.

Therefore, all elements are not disclosed in the *Pelz* reference, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-4 and 8 recite limitations similar to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 7-11 are also allowable.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pelz et al*, as cited above, in view of Martinez, Jr. et al.(US 4,771,996), previously cited by examiner.

As discussed above, *Pelz* fails to disclose the limitations of independent claims 1 from which claim 5 depends. In particular, *Pelz* fails to neither disclose a mounting for supporting part of the spring plate when the wheel suspension system is not fitted on a body of a motor vehicle, nor does it involve spring plates directly engaging the body of the vehicle as recited in claim 1 and dependent claim 5. Further, Applicants have been unable to find any teaching of the foregoing limitations in *neither Martinez* nor the motivation to combine the references. In contrast *Martinez* is merely directed toward a striker plate. Thus, it is clear that the combination of references fails to teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention.

Therefore, all elements are not disclosed in the *Martinez* reference, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pelz et al*, as cited above, in view of *Sautter et al. et al.*(US 4,671,531) (*Sautter*).

As discussed above, *Pelz* fails to disclose the limitations of independent claims 1 from which claim 6 depends. In particular, *Pelz* fails to neither disclose a mounting for supporting part of the spring plate when the wheel suspension system is not fitted on a body of a motor vehicle, nor does it involve spring plates directly engaging the body of the vehicle as recited in claim 1 and dependent claim 6. Further, Applicants have been unable to find any teaching of the foregoing limitations in *neither Sautter* nor the motivation to combine the references. In contrast *Sautter* is merely directed toward a suspension which reduces noise and undesirable steering movement. Thus, it is clear that the combination of references fails to teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention.

Therefore, all elements are not disclosed in the *Sautter* reference, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 6.

CONCLUSION

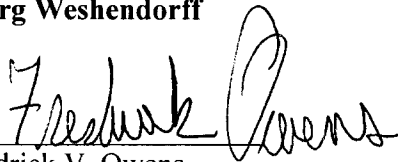
For the above cited reasons, all of the claims presently pending in this application are submitted to be allowable. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney if it would advance the prosecution of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

FEES

Applicant submits herewith an RCE. Please charge the RCE fee, as well as any additional fees, or credit any overpayment in connection with the filing of this paper, to Ford Global Technologies LLC, Deposit Account No. 06-1510. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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